

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01566 031610Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----008693 031620Z /47

O R 031516Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8310
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1566

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: RH PDEV ZA
SUBJ: DELIVERY OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO KAUNDA

REF: STATE 110019, STATE 110023

1. NO ONE WAS AVAILABLE IN LUSAKA TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER UNTIL THE END OF THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND, MAY 1. I WAS ABLE TO REACH MARK CHONA AT THE END OF IT TO SET UP A MEETING FOR EARLY ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2. I ASKED CHONA TO PASS THE LETTER ON TO THE PRESIDENT WHO WAS STILL ON THE COPPER BELT WHERE HE HAD SPENT LABOR DAY.

2. IN COMMENT, CHONA FOCUSED ON THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE. HE SAID HE HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT OUR STATEMENT WAS TOO LONG AND CIRCUITOUS AND FAILED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY POINT. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR OUR STATEMENT TO BE CLEAR CUT IN DECLARING WALVIS BAY AN INTEGRAL PART OF
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NAMIBIA. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO DO, AND CITED THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT TO NUJOMA AND GARBA IN THEIR MEETING. CHONA RESPONDED THAT THE WAY OUT WAS FOR US TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARATION ON THE BASIS OF OUR GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH IT, MAKING AFTERWARDS WHATEVER EXPLANATION OF VOTE WE WANTED TO ON OUR INTERPRETATION OF THE WALVIS BAY SITUATION. IN THIS WAY THERE WOULD BE A GENERAL

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON RECORD SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. WHICH HAD DECLARED WALVIS BAY AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA. ON THE BASIS OF SUCH A RESOLUTION, HE SAID, THE FRONTLINE COULD PROCEED TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE. THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE A MEETING OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS, BUT THEY WOULD CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES. THEY ALREADY SUPPORTED OUR PROPOSALS, BUT WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARATION THEY COULD INSIST TO NUJOMA THAT HE TAKE A POSITIVE POSITION. HE CALLED ME BACK THE FOLLOWING DAY TO EXPRESS HIS OPTIMISM THAT AFTER THE MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY THE FRONTLINE WAS FIRMLY ABOARD AND A MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT FROM NUJOMA WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

3. ON RHODESIA, CHONA DEFENDED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, CLAIMING THAT IT NATURALLY DID NOT WANT TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ONLY TO HAVE THE RENEGOTIATE THEM AGAIN AT AN ALL PARTIES MEETING. I POINTED OUT THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AGREE TO SOMETHING WHICH CONFORMED TO THE ESSENTIALS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL. IT WAS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S SUGGESTIONS WHICH VARIED FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL THAT WE FOUND DIFFICULTY WITH IN DAR. WE COULD NOT HAVE AGREED TO THEM THERE AND THEN SOUGHT TO SUPPORT THEM AT THE ALL PARTIES MEETING. CHONA IMPLIED CLEARLY THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S EXCEPTION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM THOSE FUNCTIONS ENTRUSTED TO THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WAS MERELY A BARGAINING TACTIC. I ADDED THAT THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION SUPERVISION WAS AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY

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BUT CHONA CONTENTED THAT THE FRONTLINE HAD NOT CONSIDERED THIS AT ITS DAR MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. I ASKED CHONA WHETHER HE HAD NOTED THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CALLING ATTENTION TO SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA'S INTEREST IN VISITING FRONTLINE CAPITALS AND WHAT IMPRESSION HE HAD OF THEM. HE SAID THAT SO FAR AS PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS CONCERNED, MUZOREWA WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME. HE BORE HIM NO GRUDGE. HE COULD NOT SAY THE SAME FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA (IMPLYING I ASSUME THAT WERE THE BISHOP TO VISIT ZAMBIA THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS). IT WAS MUZOREWA, HE SAID, WHO HELD THE GRUDGE AGAINST PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND ZAMBIA. IN THIS CONNECTION HOWEVER HE NOTED THAT SIMPSON MTAMBANENGWE, WHOM ANDY YOUNG AND I HAD MET WITH HERE IN MARCH, AND WHO HAD RECENTLY LEFT LUSAKA TO JOIN THE BISHOP IN SALISBURY, WOULD TRY TO SET HIM STRAIGHT. MTAMBANENGWE WAS A SCHOOL CLASSMATE OF CHONA'S. HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA AND WOULD ADVISE THE BISHOP TO MODERATE HIS CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND THE ZAMBIANS.

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